H.B. No. 2326

AN ACT

relating to the possession and transportation of certain nonindigenous snakes; increasing a criminal penalty.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 43.851(a), Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  The commission by rule shall establish permits that allow permit holders to possess or transport in this state a live nonindigenous snake, including a hybrid of any kind, that is:

(1)  venomous [~~snake~~]; or

(2)  a constrictor that is one of the following:

(A)  African rock python, Python sebae;

(B)  Asiatic rock python, Python molurus;

(C)  Burmese python, Python bivittatus;

(D)  green anaconda, Eunectes murinus;

(E) [~~(D)~~]  reticulated python, Python reticulatus; or

(F) [~~(E)~~]  southern African python, Python natalensis.

SECTION 2.  Section 43.856, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(a)  Except as provided by Subsection (b) or (c), a person who violates this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter commits an offense that is a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

(c)  If it is shown at the trial of the defendant for a violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter that the defendant has engaged in a commercial activity without holding a required permit and the defendant has been previously convicted of a violation of this subchapter or a rule adopted under this subchapter, on conviction the defendant shall be punished for a Class B Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2326 was passed by the House on April 16, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 141, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2326 on May 24, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 117, Nays 28, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2326 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 19, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                 Date

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               Governor